

10 JUL 1957

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT: Comments on Recommended Transfer of Map Library
Division to OCR

REFERENCE: Memorandum to AD/CR from Chief, Map Branch/CR,
"The Map Library Division as an Integral Part
of the Map Branch," 26 February 1948.

25X1A9a The AD/CR provided this Office with a copy of recommendations from the report of the Panel of Library Consultants, which included a proposed transfer of our Map Library Division to OCR. I also understand from [REDACTED] that you will entertain an appeal from me with respect to this recommendation of the Panel. I do not concur with the recommendation, and I am setting forth my reasons in the following paragraphs.

1. Basis for Panel Recommendation

The Panel based its recommendation on the premise that there should be a centralized information service for CIA under OCR responsibility in order to establish one area of contact for users of the reference service. However, the Panel members at no time discussed with operating officials the pros and cons of the organizational position of the Map Library in OCR, nor did they investigate the substantive problems which would develop should the Library be transferred to another Office.

2. Precedents

a. It is a basic principle in government that map library facilities are organizationally associated with the map-producing and geographic research components of the agency concerned. The Army Map Service, Navy Hydrographic Office, Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, Geological Survey, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and Board on Geographic Names combine their map libraries with the geographic and/or map-producing components of the organization concerned and not with central reference services. In the case of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the reference services have been specifically reorganized in recent years to remove the map library from the central library and associate it directly with the

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research and analysis activity. The only map library in the government that is attached to a central reference unit is located in the Library of Congress, where there is no map-producing or geographic research activity.

b. The validity of the above principle as it applies to OCR's Map Library Division has been tested and proved from the beginning of the unit. From the inception of the map reference service in the Department of State in the late 1920's, the Department's map library was placed originally within the Office of the Geographer and, after the beginning of World War II, in the Division of Geography and Cartography. The map library established in the Office of Strategic Services in 1942 was a working component, staffed by geographers, of a major geographic organization in OSS. These two map libraries were merged following State's absorption of that portion of OSS in 1943, and were established as a single component of the Department's Map Division. In 1948, following the transfer of geographic research to CIA, a management review concluded specifically that the Map Library Division (then Branch) should not be placed in OCR, but should remain as an integral component of the geographic research activity.

3. Basis for Location in OCR

a. The Map Library continues to be an integral working component of the Geographic Research Area. Professional personnel of the Geography, Cartography, and Photo Intelligence Divisions work directly with the Map Library personnel in the selection and development of CIA procurement priorities, selection of materials for permanent file, technical direction of Geographic Attache reporting, development of leads for procurement and reporting, determination of reproduction requirements and methods, and formulation of substantive policy. The Map Library Division, in turn, functions as the organ of dissemination for maps produced by the Cartography Division; exploits, through [REDACTED], the results of mapping and aerial surveys conducted by American concerns abroad as required by the Area; and consults with all Divisions on mapping evaluations accomplished for other components of CIA and the intelligence community. These relationships are not only in addition to but organically support the map reference function performed for CIA in general. They require a close organizational association of the geographic divisions for their success.

b. Administratively, the map reference function benefits by being grouped with other geographic activities. Because its functions naturally require heavy utilization of trained geographers, professionally-suitable personnel and project assistance are available to the Map Library for loan on short notice without

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administrative complication. The handling, logging, and controlling of materials and correspondence associated with the foreign and domestic procurement programs is accomplished by the Information Control Section of Ch/G as an integral part of its overall coordination of geographic intelligence flow.

c. The direction and programing of geographic research necessitates that higher supervisors have equal control over the functions of geographic reporting, cartographic production, and map reference. The functions are mutually supporting; management-wise, they form a unity. To the degree that the components are separated, their individual capabilities and potential are weakened and the geographic research function handicapped.

4. Effects of Transfer

The objectives of the Panel in recommending transfer thus do not conform with reality. Whether in terms of administration, supervision, or working-level effectiveness, it is difficult to see how the transfer of the Map Library to OCR would benefit the Agency or the community. It would seriously impair the overall effectiveness of the Geographic Research Area, which has been developed over many years by the exercise of team leadership in order to assure maximum mutual advice and assistance among the Area's several components in meeting the community's demands for geographic intelligence support. The advantage of central location depends not on organizational relationship to OCR but rather on proper location of map reference services within the new CIA building. Currently planned assignment of space in the new building provides for the desired physical centralization of the reference services. The channels through which Map Library services are presently extended to and coordinated with other elements of the Agency and the intelligence community -- Economic Area, OSI, OGI, OBI, OC, Central Library, Industrial Register, Graphics Register, DD/P, Army Map Service, Department of State, and other appropriate organizations -- are long tested and function well. The effect of the Panel's recommendation would be to dismantle a sound working system.

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